(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There has been some impact on tourism from the Far East due to collapse of their currencies.

(c) and (d) Many foreign airlines are interested in mounting additional flights to India because of the potential market size. Traffic rights to foreign airlines are granted on the basis of reciprocity and balancing of benefits to the designated airlines of both the sides, keeping in view the requirements of tourism, travel and international trade.

Performance of Civil Aviation Industry

588. SHRI BANARSI DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Civil Aviation industry is earning a lot of money to the exchequer due to increased flow of traffic to and from India by bringing thousands of tourists and business people but Government have failed miserably to promote this industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost this industry by its overcoming difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Civil Aviation Sector makes a significant contribution to the exchequer by payment of various taxes, duties and earnings from visiting tourists.

(b) Some of the measures taken/being pursued by the Government to further promote this sector are as under:—

(i) Liberalisation of Tourist Charter guidelines.

(ii) Promotion of Regional Airlines.

(iii) Development of Model Airports.

(iv) Liberalised Airport Infrastructure Policy.

(v) Concessional fares by airlines to attract passengers.

(vi) Pricing of Aviation Turbine Fuel at par with international rates.

(vii) Creation of a National Civil Aviation Development Fund; and

(viii) Infrastructure status to Airlines operation and Aircraft acquisition etc.

New Aircrafts for IA/AI

589. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to acquire some new aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the number of aircrafts proposed to be purchased for AI and IA;

(c) the details of the proposals pending in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to clear those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

Expansion plan of Delhi Airport

590. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long awaited Rs. 2000 crore airport expansion plan in Delhi is in jeopardy as the Airport Authority have yet to acquire land from villages around the airport;

(b) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay in the acquisition of land; and

(c) whether the Airport Authority had entered into any agreement with the villagers for acquisition of land and if so, the details thereof;